

think the government could undertake a better piece of work. A new bathhouse could be built and the water could be piped down from the present pool to a reservoir in the valley.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We have that project under consideration at the present time. We are spending \$800,000 to construct our part of the highway from Golden to Revelstoke via the Big Bend. Plans will be prepared for the bathhouse and I hope that we shall be able to do the piping this year in order to utilize the two springs for a new building at the point mentioned by my hon. friend.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

JUDGES ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 133, to amend the Judges Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

On section 1—Annuity to judge who held office on 31st March 1927 and continued or continues in office until he attained or attains 75 years of age.

Mr. STEVENS: There is only one section to this proposed amendment. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) will be in his seat this evening and he may wish to say something. I do not think however that he has any particular objection to it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend the leader of the opposition approves of the bill.

Mr. STEVENS: I think he does.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) also approves of the bill. As a matter of fact it was to give effect to the suggestion made in 1927 by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George that the new law was enacted retiring the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Exchequer Court at the age of seventy years. It applies only to those who were then in office, because as was represented to me they had been appointed for life and there was some question whether it was fair for those who had been appointed for life to be retired at seventy years of age without giving them a pension to the full amount of their salaries. With respect to other judges who have been appointed since that law was passed or who are to be appointed, the retiring allowance will be only two-thirds of the salary.

[Mr. Coote.]

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: I take it that there was an implied contract with these men who were appointed?

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is what was contended.

Mr. ADSHEAD: I should like to ask why supreme court judges should not contribute some portion of their salaries towards a superannuation fund. Even the lowest employee of the Post Office department has five per cent of his salary deducted, and if he does not remain in the service a certain length of time he loses all the money he has paid in. The judges get good salaries all their lives, and when they retire they continue to get their full salary without paying a cent towards it. I do not think that is fair at all.

Mr. LAPOINTE: When the question comes up, as it certainly will at some future session, of the salaries of judges and pensions to retired judges, the point raised by my hon. friend undoubtedly will be discussed. I may tell my hon. friend that many judges have already asked to be allowed to contribute, provided that their widows receive a share of their pension, as is the case with civil servants and officers of the mounted police. This will involve a radical change in the present law, but I agree with my hon. friend that it should be done.

Mr. ADSHEAD: I notice that in the estimates for this year over \$1,300,000 is devoted to pensions of this kind.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, that is part of the salaries of the judges, which certainly are not too high at the present time. As a matter of fact, if my hon. friend was at the head of the Department of Justice he would see how difficult it is at the present time to get the right men to accept judicial positions.

Mr. ADSHEAD: That amount is for pensions alone.

Mr. LAPOINTE: But even at that the positions are not attractive.

Mr. HEAPS: I have only one word to say. I am very glad to see the Minister of Justice fighting so hard on behalf of his own union.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (Secretary of State) moved that the house go into committee on Bill No. 9, to amend the Companies Act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Johnston in the chair.

Sections 1, 2 and 3 agreed to.